BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2004-180-E - ORDER NO. 2004-587

November 30, 2004

IN RE: Petition of Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. for Waiver of R.103-339(6) of the Commission's GRANTING Regulations with Respect to One Customer. WAIVER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the petition of Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. (Progress Energy or the Company) for waiver of 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-339(6) as to customer, Beatrice Weaver. Progress Energy notes in its Petition that Regulation 103-339(6) requires that "Each electrical utility shall not send a customer an estimated bill, except for good cause, where the meter could not be read or was improperly registering. In no instance will more than one estimated bill be rendered within a 60-day period, unless otherwise agreed to by the customer."

Progress Energy states that it and its meter reading contractor have encountered difficulties gaining access to the property of the Weavers for the purpose of monthly meter readings. Mrs. Weaver owns the 10 acre tract of land. The Company notes that on some meter reading dates, the gates are locked and no one responds to telephone calls. On other occasions, the gates are open, but the meter readers are verbally accosted by Mr. or Mrs. Weaver, and are forced to leave the property without reading the meters. Mrs. Weaver has also apparently threatened to swear out warrants for trespassing against any meter readers who enter the property. According to Progress Energy, these problems have necessitated a number of estimated meter readings. Because of these and other problems,

Progress Energy is asking for a waiver of Regulation 103-339(6) to allow for one or more

estimated meter readings, if necessary.

Beatrice Weaver has now agreed to allow billing based on estimates instead of

actual meter readings.

Commission Regulation 103-301(3)(1976) states that where compliance with a

regulation introduces unusual difficulty, such regulation may be waived by the

Commission upon a finding by the Commission that such waiver is in the public interest.

We believe that compliance with the Regulation by Progress Energy in the present

scenario definitely introduces unusual difficulty, because of the various barriers to meter

reading erected by the Weavers. We certainly believe the Regulation should be waived as

being in the public interest, especially since Mrs. Weaver has now agreed to allow billing

based on estimates. Accordingly, the waiver is granted.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the

Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/

G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)